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The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Everything possible is done, because it is in the interests of the Government to sell energy."

Rescission of the order to disafforest a belt of the Kudiraimoli forest, Tinnevelly district.

Forests

* 634 *Q.*—Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmipathi: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the Kudiraimoli forest reserve in Trichendur taluk in the Tinnevelly district—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that as a result of numerous memorials from the inhabitants of adjoining villages and interpellations in the Legislative Council, the Government passed an order in 1924–25 to disafforest a belt of half a mile all round the reserve for assignment to the neighbouring inhabitants;

(*b*) whether this order has been carried into effect and what action, if any, has been taken on the same;

(*c*) whether the order was passed after a full and elaborate discussion by the expert officers of the Government;

(*d*) whether the order has been subsequently cancelled and if so, when and whether any notice was given to the neighbouring inhabitants before the cancellation; and

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the order subsequent to 1925 either cancelling or modifying the prior order to disafforest a belt of half a mile?

A.—(*a*) No orders were passed that a belt of half a mile all round the reserve should be disafforested for assignment to the neighbouring inhabitants. An area of 1,952 acres in the reserve was however disreserved in 1924 in order to set back the reserve boundary which lay close to the villages of Kudiraimoli, Semmarikulam, Yeluvaraimukki and Nazareth.

(*b*) *to* (*d*) The lands could not be assigned as they had not been surveyed. The survey was completed in December 1930. In the meantime the local officers represented that the disafforested areas were not taken proper care of and that there had been reckless cutting of trees and consequent loss to Government. It was urged that the area should be reconstituted into a reserve forest. The Government, after careful consideration of the matter and in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Board of Revenue and after giving due notice to the villages concerned, directed that an area of 350 acres should be set apart for the common use of the villagers and that the remaining area should be again reserved. In view, however, of the difficulties of the villagers in

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obtaining grazing for their cattle the Government ordered that as an experiment the area may be thrown open for grazing for two to two months and a half during the monsoon season. Orders have since been issued declaring 1,474·24 acres of the vacant area as a reserve forest.

(e) A copy of the G.O. No. 266, Development, dated 19th February 1935, is placed on the table.[a]

Representations for permits to graze goats in the Reserved and Panchayat Forests in Salem.

* 635 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been received by the Government from the Salem district for allowing goats, at least to a certain extent, in reserved forests as well as panchayat forests for grazing purposes;

(*b*) what action has been taken on them;

(*c*) what remarks did the Chief Conservator of Forests make on this question; and

(*d*) whether a copy of them will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A report has been called for from the Chief Conservator of Forests.

(*c*) The Chief Conservator's remarks have not yet been received.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. the Law Member is aware that there are a number of panchayat forests where there are no growths of any valuable trees at all and yet there is the restriction in allowing goats to graze in those areas?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"The goat is a very mischievous little animal, Sir."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"When there are no valuable trees in the area, what is the mischief to be caused by goats in those areas?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"It destroys any growing tree."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know why there is such a long delay on the part of the Chief Conservator of Forests in forwarding his remarks on this question?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Rush of work perhaps, Sir."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 230 infra.